

LABOR FORCE

The past and present population of Wayne County, as a whole, has been analyzed. The labor force, one determinant of economic well-being of a given area, shall be analyzed in a like fashion. The labor force is defined as all persons in the county who are 14 years of age or over and who are either employed or actively seeking employment.

In 1960 Wayne County had a population of 82,059. Of this total the labor force numbered 28,111 or 34.3 percent. In 1960 the number of people who were 14 years old and over numbered 54,670. Therefore, the 1960 actual labor force of 28,111 comprised only 51.1 percent of the possible labor force.

Table 11 shows the growth in the size of the labor force for 1962 through 1966. While the rate of growth was small, it is significant that the labor force did record a steady growth throughout the period and unemployment decreased slightly through 1964 and decreased sharply in 1965 and 1966. The steady increase of employment in manufacturing is also noteworthy. Such industries as Barry, Fedelon Throwing, and Hevi-Duty Industries locating in Wayne County account for most of this increase in the work force employed in manufacturing.

TABLE 11
ANNUAL AVERAGE LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Civilian Work Force	28,450	28,840	28,950	29,110	29,560
Percent Change	--	+1.4	+0.4	+0.6	+1.6
Total Unemployment	1,720	1,710	1,700	1,470	1,420
Rate of Unemployment	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.0	4.8
Total Employment	26,730	27,130	27,250	27,640	28,140
Percent Change	--	+1.5	+0.4	+1.4	+1.8
Manufacturing	3,320	3,360	3,410	3,670	4,100
Percent of Total	12.4	12.4	12.5	13.3	14.6
All Other	23,410	23,770	23,840	23,970	24,040

Source: Bureau of Employment Security Research - Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.